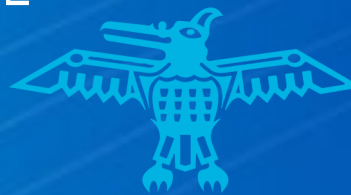


T-BIRD TIMES


 EDMONTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent:
Darrel Robertson

**Assistant
Superintendent:**
Ron MacNeil

School Trustee:
Marcia Hole

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings Ross Sheppard High School community. Into the final stretch with just two months to go has us looking forward to a strong finish. The last half of semester two has really put us back into some normalcy as school is looking like itself once again.



The beginning of March showcased our second virtual Open House week of welcome. What a great event it was, featuring many interactive sessions for the community to engage with our staff. Thank you to Mr. Lee, Ms. Fullylove and the rest of the staff and students for their contributions in Open House activities.

March also kicked off our registrations and we concluded this process on April 14th. We are

looking forward to Ross Sheppard High School continuing its success, as we will be full once again in September of 2022 with 2150 students enrolled.

Jonah Zwaigenbaum was Ross Sheppard's nomination for the Michael Strembitsky candidate. I had the privilege of writing a reference letter for him and was humbled at the accomplishments and achievements that Jonah has achieved. Jonah is a true leader at Ross Sheppard High School where he is involved in many activities. In particular, he sits on the 'Speak Up Shep' advisory council where decisions for the school are made with student voice.

April brings closure to student teaching practicums and we had a large cohort at Ross Sheppard this round. Our student teachers did a fabulous job and now look forward to their next career steps. Thank you to our staff for mentoring these student teachers and special thanks to Mrs. Macdonald for her leadership here.

The end of April brought some celebratory events to our school, as we had a big week at Ross Sheppard with our courtyard activities:

- **Monday, April 25th** - Elder Campiou leading the Raising of the Tipi
- **Tuesday, April 26th** - Elder Campiou hosting Tipi Teachings with Indigenous Studies 30 students and other students
- **Wednesday, April 27th** - Grand Opening Ceremony, including Land Blessing and Naming, with Elder Campiou and several other invited dignitaries

During the last week in April, we transitioned to assessments for some of our programs. IB exams started April 28th and will continue to May 20th. Most exams are being held at the Languages Centre at Woodcroft School, so they should not greatly impact bells or announcements. The IB program is one of our major programs that has been the backbone of our academic success over the years. Thank you to Mrs. Gross for her leadership in this process.

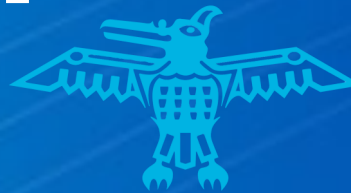


Rick Stanley
PRINCIPAL

"Kindness is helping
the world, one
person at a time."

- RAKtivist





PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We were able to finish April off with some really powerful events in our school. We filled our hearts on April 27th during a blessing and naming of our Indigenous land space! What an outstanding accomplishment that had dignitaries from across the city of Edmonton ranging from elected, to educational and cultural officials attending.

The rain, sleet, snow and winds did not slow us down. We started with a Grand Entry, from inside to outside to inside, led by students carrying the Métis, Inuit and Treaty 6 flags, followed by Elder Philip Campiou and Elder Francis Whiskeyjack who lead us in ceremony.



From the incredible drumming led by Lyle Tootoosis and dancers Demaris Badger, Zack O'Chiese and Kial Stanley, we were treated to traditional fancy and grass that was followed up with a round dance. Prior to the round dance, we had our very own Raye Mitchell give a personal land acknowledgement that was supported with speeches from our Trustee. Thank you to Destiny and Faith Beasley for acting as Masters of Ceremonies.

Enough can't be expressed about many dedicated people, and to start with we acknowledge Dianne Perry, Shannon Degenhardt and Ryan Dunkley for their organization and lead in the event. A huge technology thank you goes to Alvin Lee for his continued dedication. Our students were greeters, chaperones and ambassadors for our school. Thank you to Larissa Turcotte and Jenai Christensen for taking care of our Connect Hub while this event took place. Let's not forget Diane Jomha and Laurie Ingram-Dabgotra who designed and sent all the invitations, as well as assisted with the event from behind the scenes.



This vision started in theory one year ago and I am filled with gratitude that our Division supported this effort. None of this comes true without Lisa Hutska who helped bring this gift to life, as she was responsible for seeing the project through. With the help and support of Darrell Lastiwka and his team, who help care for this land, we are able to give Mother Earth a gift that is forever ours to cherish.

I am so proud of what has been accomplished in our school this year. The land opening really gives understanding to the word 'reconciliation'. We were honoured by Elder Campiou who gave us the land blessing and named our land mâmawâyâwin, which is the Cree word for 'gathering place'.

With gratitude and such a filled heart I thank everyone involved and I hope that this offering is for everyone to share.

Congratulations to Hessen Zoeller who will be taking over as our 'Acting for' Social Studies Department Head. Kelsey McCready will be away for the next year celebrating the new addition to her family. We also want to congratulate Julianne Hafer and Roberta Cannon, as they are seconded to Alberta Education for the next two years. Lots of growth for our staff and some shifting along the way. We are very proud of our staff who take on new heights.

MATHEMATICS

April is always an exciting month for Mathematics at Ross Sheppard, because this is the month of the math contests. We typically have several that occur in a relatively short period of time during April, but the big one is our Totem Torus competition. Over the last two years we were not able to host this event due to the pandemic, and this year we were concerned about what the turn out would be, but we pressed on because there seemed to be an appetite for this kind of activity. Well, to our amazement, it was the biggest competition we have had yet! Teams from eleven different schools met in our south gym to compete for the math bragging rights of the year. There were over 130 students taking part. It was so gratifying to have everyone out and excited to be here again!



Mr. Dean Walls was the emcee for the event and led the competitors through the activities. The day began with poster making. Each team came up with their own mathy team name and drew up a poster. It is always amazing to see such student creativity with this. We never thought it would be such a popular part of the day when we first started making the posters a few years ago, but it is a staple of the competition now. After that, the students worked on a 45 minute individual competition consisting of 10 questions. From there, they moved onto the team competition. This was another 45 minute competition, with 25 questions and no calculators allowed. During this part of the competition the teams have to be able to delegate questions to move through as many as possible.

After this part of the competition students can relax for a bit and enjoy a pizza lunch while they commiserate over the questions they just worked on. Following was a presentation from Dr. D'Alessio from the University of Waterloo. He presented on the three problems that he has worked on in his career: The Tunguska-event problem, Flow Past Arrow Foils and Climate Modelling. Dr. D'Alessio breaks the stereotype of the traditional mathematician. He was entertaining and engaging!



The math relays, which tend to be one of the most exciting parts of the day, capped off the competition. Students worked in teams of three to answer three questions, where the answer to the first question is required for the second question, and so on for the third. The challenge is that they cannot talk to each other. The quicker they get the answer in, the more points they get! It's so much fun! Once the relays were over and the marks were tallied, it was time to announce the winners. It's ok Ross Sheppard ... we'll get them next year!



Pickle Sauce from Old Scona, first place winners.



Team TENT from Old Scona, second place winners.



(Pi)Rats from Strathcona, third place winners.

SOCIAL STUDIES

We have had a busy semester and no shortage of current events to discuss in relation to our Social Studies courses.

At the end of February, we had 15 students attend the virtual University of Alberta High School Model United Nations. The group represented Ross Sheppard very well, showcasing their diplomatic speech and debate skills over the three-day conference. Shep students excelled, helping to draft resolutions in their committees. All represented the school with enthusiasm and professionalism. Congratulations to Charles Zhang and Kym Bahandi who won Best Delegates for the Security Council and Finn Thornley for Best Position Paper. Way to go T-Birds!



In May we are looking forward to our Social 20 classes participating in a virtual field trip to the Holocaust Education Symposium. This will give the students the opportunity to layer their understandings learned in class about the consequences of ultranationalism with real life accounts of the Holocaust.

As we look to the end of the term, classes will be busy finishing courses and reviewing for final exams.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The English 20IB classes engaged in an in depth study of representing their inspiration from the imagery in Canadian author, Yann Martel's novel, *Life of Pi*. An array of mediums were used from pencil, paint, 3D paper sculpture, embroidery to digital art. Students wrote a detailed annotation of a passage from the novel that showcased Martel's use of imagery and connected to our IB concepts, areas of exploration, global issues and Theory of Knowledge. In addition, they wrote an artist statement outlining their inspiration and intentions for their representation, as well as describing their choice of medium and their process. Check out their inspiring work!

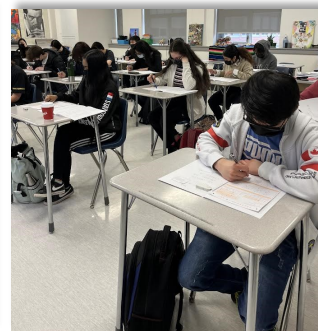
Created by (from left to right) Tiffany, Hannah and Helen W.



CHINESE LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Close to 200 students in all Chinese classes participated in the Chinese Proficiency Exam on April 20th and 21st.

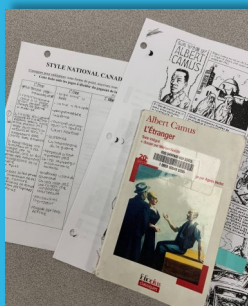
Grade 12 students in Chinese class are preparing for their final party. After two years without a proper ending, everyone is looking forward to the big day!



FRENCH LANGUAGE ARTS

Bonjour tout le monde!

Students in French Language Arts were quite busy at the start of this semester! For Le Mois de la Francophonie (Francophone Heritage Month), students in grade 11 researched different Francophone regions around the world and looked into the excellence of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour in their respective regions. They also had a chance to discuss their own Francophone identities as students in the French Immersion program, and how to bridge gaps between their anglophone and French identities.



In grade 12, students began reading *Albert Camus' L'Étranger*, a classic piece of literature in the Francophone world. Here, they looked into the philosophies of existentialism and absurdism following World War II. Students also debated about a pivotal point in the main character's actions, deliberating whether he was guilty or not guilty of his actions.

Students in grade 11 will cap off the year with a final novel study about a Lebanese refugee's experience fleeing Lebanon during the civil war, while students in grade 12 will end with a play analysis on a Quebecois play that occurs during the Quiet Revolution.

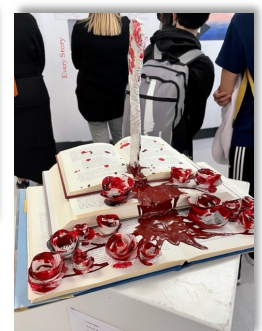
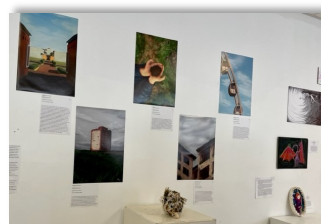
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

This year, Shep's IB student group has a new name and a new mission. The Shep IB Committee (SIBC) is a group of students who give feedback on the school's IB program and work to improve it. Our students have helped us to better schedule IB courses, spread out IB assessments, and develop a variety of events and activities for IB students in the school. If any IB student, full or partial, is interested in participating in SIBC, we meet in room 2100 on Wednesdays at lunch.

We are pleased to announce that all of the IB assessments, except for exams, have been completed for the May 2022 session. Congratulations, grade 12 IB students on your phenomenal work! Up next for our grade 12 IB students are the IB exams, which run from April 28th to May 20th. Please see the Ross Sheppard website or the 2022 Google Classroom for the examination schedule. Good luck on your exams, T-Birds!

Included in these accomplishments was our IB Art Exhibition on April 7th. It was wonderful to invite friends, family, and staff to celebrate the work of our incredible IB art students. Thank you to Mr. Lund for your work in supporting students with this event.

Grade 10 pre-IB and grade 11 IB students have been registering for their courses next year. If there are any lingering questions, Ms. Gross's door is open in room 2100/2102, or you can email her at jennifer.gross@epsb.ca.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

The last couple of months have been very exciting in the ELL classrooms. First of all, EPSB Foundations and the Chromebooks for Kids program generously donated 17 Chromebooks to our students who do not have access to technology at home. This is an absolute game changer for some families and we are so appreciative of the Foundation's support of our students.

As well, both English 10-2 ELL and our Leadership 15 Inclusive classes participated in the Diversity Day speaker with Aaron Paquette, artist and Edmonton City Councillor. The focus was on Art and literature as a form of cultural expression and antiracism and it was incredibly moving!



Our Science 15 and 14 classes combined multiple times throughout the last couple of months to work together in the science lab. On one occasion, students were exploring cellular respiration and photosynthesis where students had a "passport" and had to draw, watch videos, research, answer multiple choice questions, provide an opinion and create test questions. It was challenging, but there were some light bulbs going off! This collaboration between classes has been taking place all semester long and has been fantastic for students.

Every Friday, the Leadership 15 class has been delivering beverages and cookies to the staff. The coffee cart has expanded from hot chocolate to include a variety of teas and cookies and last week even paired up with the Foods 20-4 class to make a variety of smoothies for a "booster" to the day.



BIPOC Girls Empowerment Club is still running every Wednesday after school in room 1102. The focus has been on STEM presentations and engaging the girls from a variety of backgrounds into the sciences.

INCLUSIVE LEARNING - INTERACTIONS

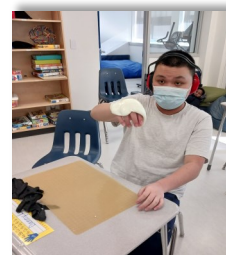
Interactions has once again started swimming at the Jasper Place Leisure Centre. It is always a great time on the slide, diving board and warm pool to end off the experience.



We have been grateful for our ELL leadership friends that come every Monday and Wednesday to socialize, play games and make puzzles with us.



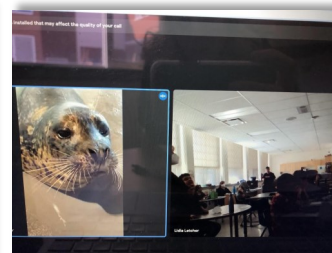
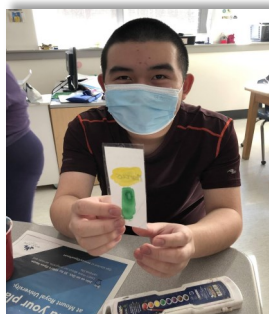
We have also had a great time with some of the leadership students. We made slime with our friend Ari and some fun Easter painting cards with Jennifer and Aeris.



We have also been learning about the month long celebration of Ramadan through music, stories and the experiences of our Muslim Educational Assistant, Ms. Ali.

INCLUSIVE LEARNING - CLS

CLS has been busy the last couple of months with a Virtual Field Trip to the Edmonton Zoo to meet with the seals; Reading Buddies and making watercolor bookmarks with the Leadership classes; BINGO; and Earl Bird even made an appearance in class and got a ton of hugs!



KNOWLEDGE & EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAM

The Knowledge and Employability Foods class has created an amazing collaboration with the Inclusive Leadership class to make smoothies and cookies for the staff. This partnership will continue to evolve throughout the semester for some fantastic mentoring opportunities for the students.

This year we have an extremely motivated group of students who have been asking for resume help and how to find a job. There has been a ton of resume focus in classes and a lot of explanation on how to use Indeed.com. Mr. Lynagh and Mr. Youngs have done a fantastic job finding opportunities for our students with more in the works.

ATHLETICS



There has been a lot to celebrate in Shep athletics.

All four of our basketball teams had seasons to be proud of, as they all continued to improve and show tremendous growth. The basketball season was highlighted by the Senior Men's team winning their division's City Championship.

Cheer has been working tirelessly as the athletes and coaches have been putting in countless hours since September. Their hard work was evident as they capped off an amazing season capturing silver in the Provincials Finals. Well done T-Birds!!



Wrestling had another successful season as they finished second in the team aggregate awards in the City Championships. Special congratulations to Jaden Parr and Anthony Rosebrugh for capturing gold at the City Championship and also to Tai Poon for bringing home a silver medal at the Provincial Championship.

Currently, Badminton and Handball are well underway as they are all preparing for playoffs. Spring camp is just around the corner for our Football team; while Soccer, Rugby, along with Track and Field are working hard as they prepare for their upcoming season.

Well done T-Birds and many thanks to all of the coaches, teachers and parents that are involved with the teams.

SPORTS PERFORMANCE

Students taking Sports Performance are in the middle of their training program for the semester. Across all levels of the class (introductory, intermediate and advanced), students are completing a resistance training program designed to help them improve their athletic performance in fundamental movement skills such as vertical jumping, change of direction ability and proper movement mechanics.

Completing this program and developing proper technique is also equipping students with the knowledge to train safely and continue to live healthy active lifestyles beyond the class. What makes this program unique is that all students receive an individualized recommendation regarding the weight they should lift for each exercise. Proper loading on strength training exercises such as the squat, deadlift, bench press and overhead press is key to maximize training results and avoid overtraining or injury. While all levels of the course are working on resistance training as the main participation component, each level does have a slightly different focus and exercise curriculum.

Students taking the introductory class have more training time dedicated to basic strength training exercises to develop general fitness, and are now being carefully introduced to some Olympic weightlifting progressions designed to develop explosive power and coordination. At the intermediate and advanced levels of the class, students have obtained a base level of strength, coordination and fitness, and are being introduced to more advanced training exercises such as full Olympic weightlifting movements (snatch, and clean and jerk), which will further develop power, speed and motor control. They are also learning more about training for core musculature and accessory exercises, including how those exercises can promote better movement mechanics and body composition changes.

In all levels, students will be introduced to some speed, agility and quickness exercises as the weather outside improves. At the end of the semester, classes will be retested to see the influence of the training program on their strength (front squat, bench press, overhead press and deadlift) and athletic performance (vertical jump, broad jump and 5-10-5 agility test). We are very excited to continue to see our students progress and enjoy the training process!



IMPROVISATION

Congratulations to the improvisation class! They welcomed their first in-person audience to film their submission for the Canadian Improv Games! During the event, students had to create four spontaneous scenes in the following categories: Theme, Life, Story and Character. Their video submission was then sent to CIG headquarters for judging. Good luck everyone! Our in-person audience loved it so we're sure the judges will too!



DRAMA

Drama 10

The Drama 10s enjoyed the sunny weather as they performed scenes from *Toronto at Dreamer's Rock* by Drew Hayden Taylor in our brand new outdoor Indigenous land space. The play is a moving portrayal of a teenage boy who is torn between the traditions of his people, which he only vaguely understands, and the lure of modern life. His magical encounters with two members of his tribe – one from 400 years in the past and one from the future – make him aware of how little he has thought about what it means to be

Indigenous. Students also had a fabulous nine weeks with their student teacher, Jordan Muzichuk, who taught units in Movement, Improvisation, Voice, Theatre Studies and Acting. Currently, they're rehearsing for their final class showcase, which will be a production of *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* by Don Zolidis, in which two narrators attempt to recreate all 209 of the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm in a wild, hilarious, fast-paced extravaganza!



Drama 20/30

Drama 20/30 students completed an exciting playwriting unit with the #writesofpassage program from Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre. Student directors, playwrights, technicians and actors hosted their first in-person audience in two years to showcase four original one act plays for our mini Shep Fest! Currently, they are rehearsing for mini Shep Fest #2 in which they'll direct and perform even more student-written one act plays!



MUSICAL & TECHNICAL THEATRE

The Musical and Technical Theatre class is thrilled to announce their upcoming production of *Urinetown* by Mark Hollmann and Greg Kotis. *Urinetown* is a dystopian satire that takes place in a Gotham-like city where a terrible water shortage has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides he's had enough, and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom! *Urinetown* catapults the "comedic romp" into the new millennium with its outrageous perspective, wickedly modern wit and sustained ability, to produce gales of unbridled laughter.



Urinetown will run in-person from May 11th-14th at 7 pm each evening in the Ross Sheppard Performing Arts Theatre. Tickets will be available through Eventbrite starting next week. Be sure to check out our posters around the school and in the meantime, enjoy some rehearsal pictures!



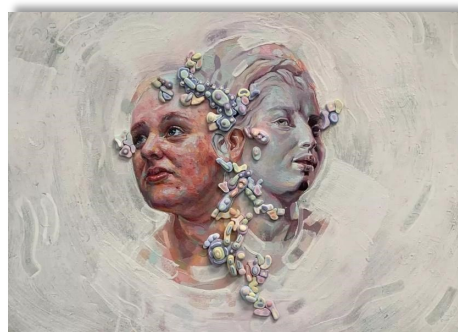
VISUAL ARTS

On April 7th the Art department hosted the Art 30 IB Art Exhibition and the turnout was amazing. Throughout the evening around 200 students, friends, teachers, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles all joined us in celebrating the amazing achievements of this wonderful group of students.



The exhibition is a culmination of two years of work leading towards each student's individualized body of work. Congratulations to the following student participants: Amanda Boffa, Lauren Chen, Carly Chiew, Gibson Finlay, Kyana Gormsen, Adyne Mendoza, Xiadani Ramirez Monzalvo, Ella Raven-Jackson and Blue Vos.

Congratulations to Lehan Sun, who achieved the Award of Excellence in the Alberta University of the Arts Highschool Showoff Art Competition. Lehan is currently enrolled in Art 20 IB at Ross Sheppard. For her achievement, Lehan won a new ipad. The Ross Sheppard Art program received a \$500 grant from the University to enhance program support.



Amalgamation,
Lehan Sun.
Acrylic and polymer clay on paper.

"For this piece of artwork, my idea was to portray the essence of human connection. It is a fascinating thing to me, as oftentimes, you can't choose who they feel connected to, and it is instead a sudden magical feeling when you do create a genuine bond with another person. As humans, we have a shared natural instinct to crave connection with one another, but each of these connections are so vastly different." ~*Lehan Sun*

ANTI-RACISM SUMMIT

On March 22nd, high school students were invited to participate in a cross-catchment course at the Bennett Centre, centered around building anti-racism cultures within student populations. Students, staff and administration had the opportunity to participate and build capacity with students to lead work within their respective schools. This course event offered our students a unique opportunity to grapple with complex questions regarding building anti-racist school cultures; learn from Elders, Knowledge Keepers, artists and community leaders. Our Shep Social Justice and Black Student Alliance will create action projects that reflect a meaningful understanding of anti-racism within our shared community.



STUDENT SERVICES

We have just finished pre-enrolling students for the 2022-2023 school year, and although we will head to random selection again for the fourth year in a row, we hope to welcome a vast majority to Shep! It sure was nice to do course selections in-person this year and get to meet so many grade 9 students interested in being a part of the pride, spirit and culture that is Shep.

Grade 12 students interested in upgrading next year: Centre High will be visiting on May 9th in the main office conference room to register and complete course selections over the lunch hour.

It's Mental Health Week May 2nd-6th! Keep Calm and Colour On!

Colouring for Mental Wellness - Keep Calm and Colour On!

The Ross Sheppard High School community will be collecting colouring books and crayons for Boyle Street Community Services during Mental Health week to help support mental wellness for our communities most vulnerable members!

Boyle Street is a community organization with a mission to end chronic homelessness through involvement in strong, accepting and respectful communities. One the areas they heavily focus on is supporting mental wellness with services including urban counselling, outreach teams and a mental wellness drop-in space. You may be thinking, how can colouring books help with mental wellness? Colouring can provide a few moments of quiet time to bring some calm to an otherwise challenging and hectic life. It could provide an activity to do with friends to allow you to feel connected in a shared activity. For an individual challenged with poverty, mental health, or addictions, the ability to finish a picture can provide a sense of accomplishment that may be otherwise hard to find on a difficult day.



The pandemic has been challenging for all of us, and for the most vulnerable in our community, these conditions further amplify challenges with consistent employment, mental health and addiction.

Please support our community with donations of colouring books and crayons in the large bins around the school during Mental Health week that will be donated to Boyle Street Community Services. If you are interested in learning more about the context of vulnerability and building relationships with vulnerable folks, there will be an education session from 12 pm - 2 pm on May 6th titled "Understanding Vulnerability." Sign-up details to come!

STAY CONNECTED



- ShepHighSchool
- ShepSUEvents
- Shep_Athletics



- @shepfootball
- @shepsmed



- Shepsmed



- Shep Grad 2022 Information
- shepgrad.ca